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Number 1 copies, Series A

BIA3

207

EXCISE

Vessels for Red Cross Inspection

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Ambassador Yost informed me by telephone at noon that Narisimhan

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2. Saw no reason why the Red Cross inspection should last more than 10 days since Russian removal of missiles, etc., would be completed at the end of that period.

3. Considered that the "hail and pass" procedure now being used by U.S. naval ships on quarantine station should be followed by the Red Cross ships.

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Narisimhan also informed Yost that the UN had no news of the arrival in New York of any Red Cross official. The last word they had from Spinnelli was that he had informed Boissier of the IRC that Cuba had no objection to Red Cross inspection of incoming shipments.

Yost also reported some concern in the UN as to whether the Red Cross would agree to inspect other than Soviet ships bound for Cuba unless the governments whose flag they flew had explicitly agreed to such inspection. This would require the UN negotiating such agreements with other governments. Yost thought that a decision on our part to continue quarantine procedures for vessels of governments that had not agreed would speed the agreement process.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY DATE 4-6-61

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